

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, of the misuse of public airways to further a partisan political agenda.

The combination of the content and the timing of this scheduled broadcast is a clear example of Sinclair's misuse of the airways.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. The FCC is in a position and has the obligation to enforce the laws and to manage the public airways for the greater public interest and not for partisan purposes. While some issues may be in a gray as far as intent and adherence to appropriate broadcasting policy, this action by Sinclair is clearly not. It threatens to contribute further to the political polarization of the American electorate by presenting a politically charged program on an issue which is not central to the campaign and at a time which does not permit an adequate opportunity for rebuttal. Sinclair is not contributing in a positive way to the American political process.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a pro forma approval of an application. - Thank you.